

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 263797

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:NATO, ECON, EFIN

SUBJECT:ECONADS: RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

REF: NATO 6525

1. FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR USE IN DISCUSSION
OF SUBJECT REPORT.

2. PARA 11. WE WOULD SUGGEST DELETION OF THE REFERENCE
TO THE 1 BILLION DOLLAR STEEL PLANT PURCHASE FROM THE
FRG. SINCE THIS TRANSACTION HAS NOT ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE.
WE WOULD NOT QUESTION THE BASIC THESIS THAT THE TENDENCY
FOR THE USSR TO PAY CASH HAS INCREASED.

3. PARAGRAPH 18. BELIEVE THAT ARGUMENT WHICH BEGINS
QUOTE MOREOVER, SOVIET OPPOSITION TO SUCH SHOPPING SPREES
MIGHT INCREASE ... END QUOTE SEEMS OVERDRAWN AND
SPECULATIVE.

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4. ALSO IN PARAGRAPH 18, WE WOULD DELETE REFERENCE TO
TIGHTER COMECON INTEGRATION AS FORCE FOR QUOTE LAST MINUTE
PURCHASES END QUOTE.

WE DOUBT THAT THIS WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR.

5. WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN NATIONAL
VIEWS OF THE ALLIES ON THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE WESTERN
ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN ON WESTERN TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES. INGERSOLL

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